

John Reid to Andrew Jackson, December 30, 1812, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN REID TO JACKSON.

December 30, 1812.

Sir , As you have now, two aids, I conceive it of importance to know whether I am to be considered as the first or the second. I make this enquiry with considerable diffidence; but I am sure you will readily excuse me for wishing to understand *clearly* , in what capacity I am hereafter to appear with you.

Altho I was, probably, appointed in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Fletcher, who seems to have been your second aid, it was never my belief that I was to stand precisely in his situation. Under a different impression, I accepted with great satisfaction, the appointment which you tendered me; and my first perswasion was subsequently confirmed by, assurances from yourself. Has it been found expedient to make any arrangement, different from that originally intended?

In the late general order, publishing the organization of the army, I have observed myself announced as the second aid. I was surprised at this; and should, before now, have expressed to your Excellency my feelings upon the occasion, had I not considered it a temporary arrangement which would, in a short time, be superseded by new regulations.

I am very Respectfully